

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

Every Wednesday—Fivepence

FOUNDED BY
ARTHUR MEE

7th April, 1962



MAGIC AT HER FINGERTIPS

Meet nine-year-old Lynn Harrison of Birkenhead, the youngest conjuror ever to be admitted to the Liverpool Magic Circle. To pass her stiff entrance exam she practised her tricks for ten months.

Then, before the eyes of experienced adult conjurors—all men—she manipulated playing cards faultlessly, produced glasses of wine from silk handkerchiefs, did a mind-reading trick, and performed the classic rice bowl illusion while telling the story of Noggin, King of the Nogs—"patter," of course, to divert the audience's attention.

When she had finished her display she was given the warmest applause ever heard at an initiation.

Now Lynn wears the Magic Circle's badge, a bird with a magic wand in its beak.

She learned conjuring from her father by watching him practising.

"California, here I come," says Dennis Waterman "TYPICAL" BRITISH SCHOOLBOY WINS AMERICAN TV CONTRACT

Peter earned a holiday

Eleven-year-old Peter Walton, of Molesey, Surrey, has a busy home life because his parents are blind. He does the shopping, helps with housework and cooking and the care of his baby sister. He also works a paper-round.

When a holiday was booked for the family at a Bournemouth hotel for the blind, it was found that Peter wouldn't be able to go too. The rules laid it down that no child who could see and was over ten could be admitted. So the holiday had to be cancelled.

But then the proprietress of another Bournemouth hotel heard the sad story and gave it a happy ending. She offered a week's holiday free for the whole family.

Saving the "Fool-hen"

Known as "fool-hens" because they approach humans without fear, North American grouse are in danger of extinction. They have never learned that men are dangerous creatures. Now scientists at McGill University are urging greater protection for this over-trustful bird.

WITH his green blazer, grey flannels, and cap stuck on the back of his head, 14-year-old Dennis Waterman looks a typical British schoolboy. Which is one reason why he will be leaving for Hollywood in a few weeks' time.

For Dennis has just won a contract to star in a TV series to be made in America. Called *Fair Exchange*, the series will be about American and British families who agree to exchange children for short periods.



Snakes alive!

A Johannesburg lady had her bag snatched outside a pet shop. The proprietor, hearing the commotion, promptly sold her a baby python and told her to keep it in her handbag.

"I sell a hundred of these snakes a week," he explained. "They're really quite harmless but they do keep bag-snatchers away."

As the snake grows, should the lady buy a bigger handbag or another, smaller, python?

Road Safety champions

At their own request, children of Southampton Saturday morning cinema clubs have been taking part in a road safety quiz. A shield was presented to the winning team; books and National Savings stamps went to individual winners.

Penelope is one of the Boys!

P. J. W. LLOYD-EVANS can really make the conkers fly, packs a punch that makes the boys at school envious, and can slam a six with a cricket bat.

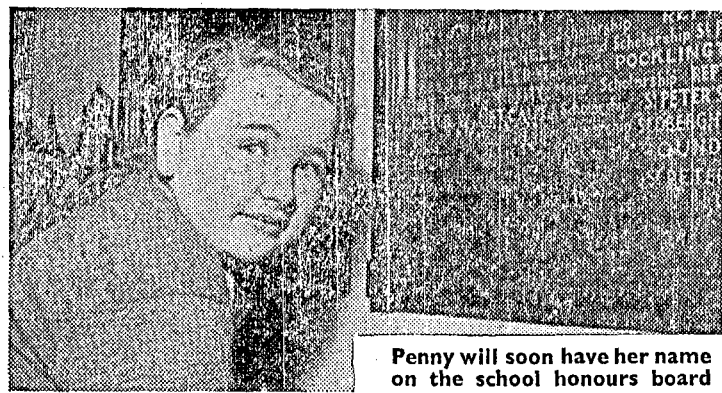
For you have to be tough when you are the only girl in a boy's school.

But now Penelope Janet Whipple Lloyd-Evans—the only girl in the Hill House Preparatory School, Doncaster—is planning to forget about conkers and cricket to think of more feminine things.

For she has just won a scholarship to Roedean, the girls' public school at Brighton.

Tom Davis, 15-year-old head boy of Hill House, said: "We will be sorry to see Penny leave. We regard her as one of the boys. She's tough, has a great sense of humour, and can certainly use a cricket bat."

Penelope, who is 11, has been a pupil there for six years.



Penny will soon have her name on the school honours board

"The boys try to tease me," said Penny, "but they only try it once. I have learned how to put them in their place. Generally I get along very well with them all. There is the occasional skirmish, but that's all."

Her father is a master at the school.

Said Mr. Lloyd-Evans: "It was

rather a special concession on the part of the headmaster to allow Penny in the school—and it was made very clear at the start that she would have no special privileges because of her sex."

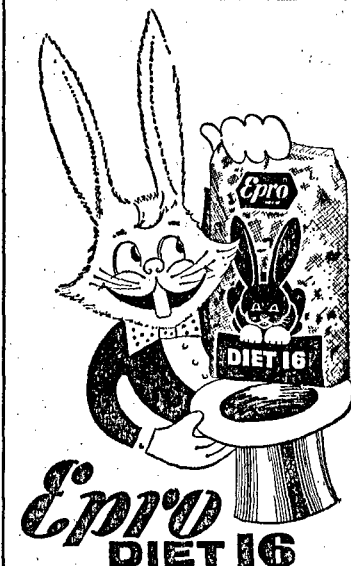
Said Penny: "I'm going to enjoy being at Roedean—but I shall miss the conker battles and the cricket."

The American producer came to the Corona Stage School in London to find what he considered a typical British schoolboy. Dennis certainly looked the part, and a test soon showed that he had the acting ability.

But then Dennis is quite an "old stager" in the entertainment world. In 1960 he had a season with the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford; he appeared on the London stage in *The Music Man*; he has taken part in two films and three television plays. Before he leaves for Hollywood he will record another play for the BBC—*To Whom It May Concern*.

Dennis is looking forward tremendously to his visit. The contract is for five years—but he will spend six months of each year in America and six months in England. Dennis is delighted with this arrangement. "It means I will be back in time for next season's soccer at the school," he said.

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ELDON LANE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 1.

Readers' Letters

Dear Sir,—With regard to the question of raising school leaving age, I think that the extra year depends upon the pupil.

If he is technically minded, he would probably want to leave as soon as possible, to gain knowledge and practice of his trade. On the other hand, if the pupil is academically minded, an extra year would be a good thing.

Rosemary Berry (12),
Lancing, Sussex.



Dear Sir,—Under the 1944 Education Act the minimum school leaving age was raised to 15, but no maximum age was mentioned.

In all good schools, which offer boys and girls useful courses, increasing numbers of children are staying on to take advantage of these opportunities. Because these children remain at school by choice they are likely to benefit.

There appears little point in forcing unwilling children to stay on, for not only are they unlikely to benefit, but they are likely to prove a hindrance to the others. Some of these are unable to cope with academic work and these are likely to learn more in the practical field outside the school.

Raising the leaving age to 16 might affect for the better those who are forced to leave at 15 by their parents to earn money for the family purse, but in these days of better living conditions the number of children so affected is likely to be very small, and so, on balance I believe that no alteration should be made to the law.

Michael J. Jeffries, Cobham,
Surrey.



Dear Sir,—Raise the school leaving age to 16? Most definitely, even perhaps to 17. I myself shall stay at school as long as possible. Many people in this country might have been less ignorant if they had stayed at school longer.

What many people want to do nowadays is get money, and the only way they can honestly do it is to get a job. So they leave school to get one. If it was not for the greed for money I think people would stay at school longer.

J. D. Major (12), Reading.



Dear Sir,—Referring to the question of raising the school leaving age to 16, I would like to say that I am in favour. It would then become necessary for all, especially grammar school pupils, to take the GCE. In my opinion grammar school pupils who leave at 15 without taking their GCE should not enter a grammar school but give their place to someone who intends taking the exam.

M. Corbin, Poole.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our first Talking Point has been a tremendous success. Letters have poured in—and they've been very good letters, too. They certainly prove that Children's Newspaper readers are a lively-minded crowd, with plenty of ideas and opinions of their own.

In view of the importance of the subject and the great interest shown in it, the whole of the editorial space on this page this week is given up to letters about it. And, to allow as many people as possible a voice, only the very best letters are being published in full, with excerpts from others.

There have been far too many letters for me to acknowledge them all personally, so I want to take this chance of thanking everybody who has written. The general standard was so high that, if your letter hasn't been published, it was probably a very near miss.

Look out for another Talking Point soon.

THE EDITOR

A P.O. for 10s. is being sent to the writer of each letter published.

Dear Sir,—I completely agree that the school leaving age should be raised to 16.

Every year the world standard of education gets higher, and I do not think a schoolboy or school-girl can be taught sufficiently for this rising social standard, when they leave school at 15.

John Bennett (14), Chiswick, W.4.



Dear Sir,—Let us hope that the school leaving age remains at 15, and that young people will continue to be allowed to decide for themselves, with the advice of those concerned, whether to stay at school later in their teens, or not. As soon as a thing is made compulsory, fewer people wish to do it, and even with the leaving age at 15, it has become the fashion to want to leave "this hole" and get out into the wide world.

For those who enjoy their education, new worlds of learning are, at the age of 15, beginning to be opened: languages are no more a collection of unconnected grammar and vocabulary, but begin to take a collective and continuous form; and the pupil begins to have sufficient knowledge of history, geography, and current affairs to hold an intelligent conversation with an adult. English literature becomes a joy rather than a burden, and science becomes increasingly absorbing.

Those who feel this way will generally stay at school between the ages of 15 and 16 anyway. Those who heartily wish to leave school will idle away yet another profitless year, hindering their teachers, infecting the others with their boredom, and hampering those who value their education in their search for knowledge.

Wendy Lewis, Harpenden.

Dear Sir,—Though the question does not really apply to me as I am doing a six-year secondary course, I am all in favour of the raising of the school leaving age to 16. In Scotland at the moment junior secondary schools (the Scottish equivalent of the secondary modern) run a three-year course which leaves the boy or girl without a certificate to show for those three years of work. If the leaving age was raised to 16 it would make them eligible for the 4th year "O" level exams which have been introduced to Scottish schools this year.

Having this certificate would enable them to get better jobs and perhaps induce those with good passes to apply for a transfer to a senior secondary or grammar school where they could obtain "A" level certificates.

Anne Marley, Maryhill,
Glasgow.



Dear Sir,—I agree that 16 years should be the minimum school leaving age. It guarantees more education and a better relationship between children and teachers.

Alan Martin, Coseley, Staffs.



Dear Sir,—I think the school leaving age should be kept at 15 and not raised to 16. It would not be fair for those wishing to stay on if it was to be raised, as there is a shortage of teachers and half their work would be wasted on children who would not really appreciate it, but would be waiting for the first possible chance to leave school.

Rather than raise the school leaving age, I think it should be lowered to 14.

Peter Hill, Watlington, Oxford.

YOUR VIEWS ON LEAVING SCHOOL

Dear Sir,—My point of view about school leaving age being raised to 16 is this: pupils who do well should choose whether they stay on another year or not. Pupils who do badly should be made to stay on another year.

C. Wells, Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey.



Dear Sir,—If schoolchildren are staying on an extra year until aged 16, I ask: "What are they going to do in that year?" Apart from trying to get better qualifications may I suggest there are special classes of preparation for the particular career they have chosen.

Also I think we should have a general preparation for the outside world. What a big step, often very blindly, we take when we start work! Can something be done to lessen that step? Up to the age of 15 we live a sheltered, supervised life, and then we are suddenly and innocently thrown out on our own into the wide world, unprepared and ignorant of things such as trade unions, national health stamps, etc.

In connection with this many also need to be taught the value

The Children's Newspaper, 7th April, 1962
of money, for £4 wages weekly is very, very different from 5s. (at the most) pocket-money for sweets!

Christopher Robinson, Hull.



Dear Sir,—I consider that the school leaving age should definitely be put up to 16. The standard of education in Britain should constantly be brought up to a higher level.

Susan Hodgshon (14),
Sleights, near Whitby.



Dear Sir,—I think the raising of the school leaving age can do nothing but benefit schoolchildren, and I am pleased to see CN presenting an opportunity for us to express our opinions.

We are often tempted into leaving school at 15 by the prospect of plenty of pocket-money, but I think that many of those who do leave find that if they want to get on at all, they need to attend evening classes. The length of time spent at these classes is almost the equivalent of staying on at school for an extra year.

W. N. Moss, Wilmslow,
Cheshire.



Dear Sir,—I think the school leaving age should be increased to 16. Most apprentices start at this age, and I think a boy or girl of 16 can decide better than at 15 what job they want to do for the rest of their lives.

Robin Peers (11), Wallasey.

A good Pen with a good name



Before entering for the CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER Handwriting Competition make sure you equip yourself with the Burnham B.48 pen. This will help you to do full justice to your effort—and may we take this opportunity to wish all competitors every success.

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JONQUIL ANTONY'S COLUMN



Last week I was writing about April showers—and now I've had a letter from Lynn Adams, of Sale, in Cheshire. Lynn says it's from "seven girls counting me," and all of them have signed their names. They have a big problem—and what do you think it is? Rain hoods! Lynn says they just never look good. ("We all want to look like pretty misses in rain-hoods but we don't.")

I agree with Lynn and her friends. Remember the pictures of Red Riding Hood? She always looks pretty with her headgear, but the wolf in bed when she's visiting him is got up to look like an old grandma, and wears a sort of bonnet that pushes out all round his face—and that's just how I feel when I'm dressed for the rain!

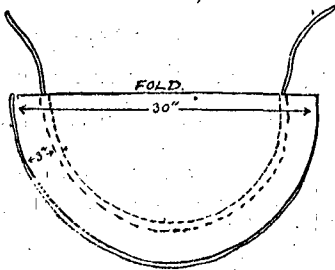
Well, Lynn, and all of you, here's a picture of a rain hood together with details of how to make it. I hope you look as nice



in it as the girl in the picture does!

I suggest you use a patterned plastic, which costs 2s. 11d. a yard. You will need $\frac{1}{2}$ of a yard.

Cut a 30-inch circle from the material, fold in half, and machine



two rows of stitching round the edge, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart and 3 inches from the cut edge. Thread a ribbon or cord through the machined strip, pull tight—and there you have it, a perfect little rain hat.



How's your character? What sort of girl are you? Calm and efficient, happy-go-lucky, solemn or cheerful? Sentimental, or without any heart at all? I'm always reading articles that class us all as "types," but isn't it the truth that we're all a mixture?

Write and tell me what you consider to be your besetting sin—and what you think are your best points. Be honest! And if you cannot trust yourself, ask your family's opinion. They'll love to tell you, you can be sure of that—especially about your faults!



We can all do something about our characters if we want to, but no one can help their physical attributes! So here's poor Eileen Smithers of Hunstanton writing and complaining that she's too fat. But Eileen assures me that it's not because she's greedy. "My brothers call it puppy-fat," Eileen wails, "and my mother won't let me do a slimming diet!"

I should think not, too! Diets are for people who have something really wrong with them. Very likely Eileen's brothers are right, even if they do tease her. As she grows older she'll find herself developing a positively sylph-like figure! Not many girls stay fat after they're sixteen.



Have you ever tried growing a carrot? And I don't mean in the garden. If you put one in a vase of water, making sure the carrot doesn't touch the bottom of the vase—a bulb glass does very well—you'll find that in a short time lovely feathery green leaves will soon grow out of the top of it, and very attractive it will look on your mantelpiece, or the window-sill.



The grass is growing greener—and if you don't fancy a carrot, why not arrange a few of the common grasses in a vase? They're as pretty as their names; the six most common grasses are—sweet vernal, meadow foxtail, annual poa, wall barley, cock's foot, and rye grass.

A simple matter of conversion

Never again shall I be foxed by the difference between the Fahrenheit and Centigrade temperature scales in the weather forecasts, writes Ernest Thomson, our TV and radio correspondent.

Anglia Television have kindly sent me their new Temperature Conversion Card (the size of a season ticket) which can be had if you apply, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, to Anglia TV, Anglia House, Norwich. Anglia's viewers' requests for the card have been coming in at the rate of 2,500 a week.

The card includes such facts as that 122 degrees Fahrenheit or 50 degrees Centigrade is what you can expect in the Sahara Desert at midday; and 58 degrees Fahrenheit or 15 degrees Centigrade in Britain on a late spring day.

What you expect and get are not, of course, always the same!

WEATHER EXPERT

Christine Tubbs, 16-year-old schoolgirl of Rugeley, Staffordshire, is the town's weather expert. For the past four years she has been the only one keeping records of the weather.

Now Christine is going to university, but the local council has decided that her work must go on, and they have asked



Christine if she will train someone before she leaves.

Said Christine: "I was worried in case the records would not be continued. I shall be very pleased to show anyone how to record the weather."

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ENTER CN's

£1,000 Handwriting Test

SCHOOLS which have not yet sent in their entries for this great £1,000 National Handwriting Test are reminded that the closing date of the competition is Wednesday next, 11th April.

Additional entry forms—issued only to schools—are still available and will be sent free of charge if immediate application is made by post or by telephone (Central 8080) to:

Competition Department, CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER,
26/27 Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

The "CN Writing Test 1962" Token, to be affixed to each completed entry, is again printed in the bottom left corner of the back page of this issue.

If further copies of CN are not available from your newsagent, they may be obtained by sending a postal order to:

Children's Newspaper, Bear Alley, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

The cost is 5d. per copy, plus postage. Postage is 2½d. for one copy; 4d. for two; 5d. for three; 6d. for four or five; 7d. for six; 8d. for seven; 9d. for eight or nine; 10d. for ten; 11d. for eleven; and one shilling for twelve copies. On 13 to 20 copies the postage is 1s. 6d.

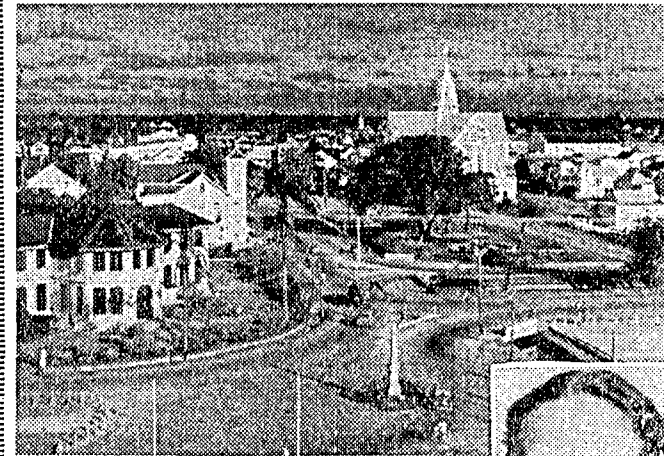
Final Date For Entries: Wednesday, 11th April

KNOW YOUR NEWS

TROUBLE-SPOTS ROUND THE CARIBBEAN

By our Special Correspondent

AFTER the recent collapse of the West Indies federation Britain is facing fresh trials in the Caribbean. Latest trouble-spots are British Guiana and British Honduras.



Georgetown, capital of British Guiana



Mrs. Janet Jagan

British Guiana wants to discuss the end of colonial rule at a London conference next month. But there are misgivings in London because, last February, riots broke out in the colony and British troops had to be called in by the Prime Minister, Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

The trouble was caused by high taxation, brought in by Dr. Jagan, and by ill-feeling among the different races in BG. About half the population are descendants of immigrants from East India; one-third are descended from freed African slaves.

These two races do not get on too well. In addition, Dr. Jagan, of Indian stock, and his wife Janet are both pro-Communist in outlook. Mrs. Jagan is believed to be the most powerful influence behind her husband and she is an admirer of the countries behind the Iron Curtain, which she has visited.

American and other investors in BG's sugar, bauxite, and rice fear that once the colony gets independence it will drift into the Communist camp, like Cuba.

British Honduras has 90,000 people living in a country the size of Wales which produces timber, grapefruit, and oranges. Not long ago the capital, Belize, was almost destroyed by a hurricane.

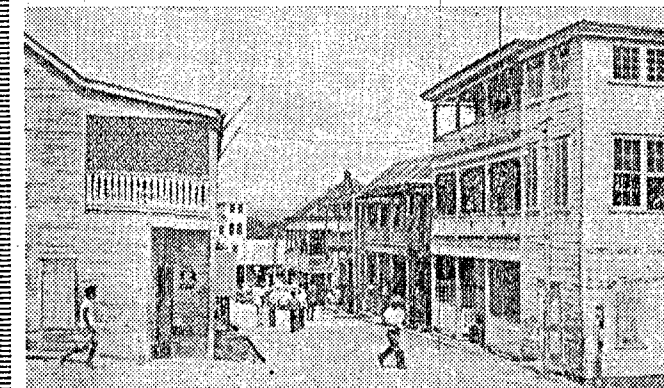
BH is less advanced politically than BG. Its leading statesman, Mr. George Price, has the title of



First Minister and home rule has yet to be granted.

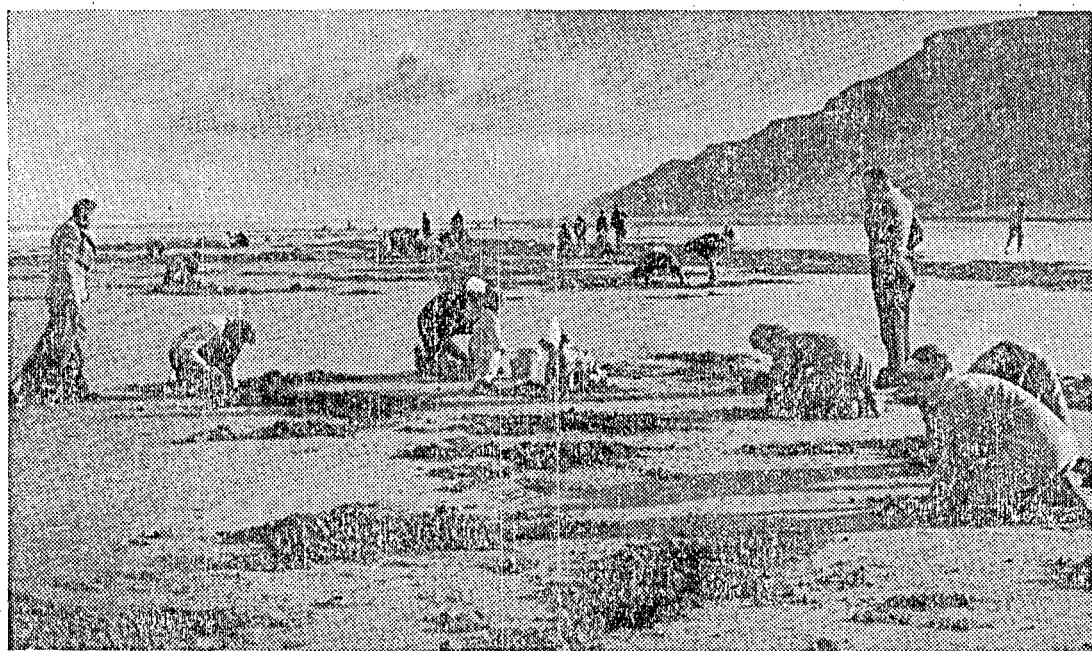
The situation here is complicated by neighbouring Guatemala's claim that BH is her lost province of Belize which belonged to her when Spain ruled Latin America. She has claimed the colony for more than a hundred years, although British pioneers first settled there in 1638.

To settle the matter finally Britain has agreed to meet a Guatemalan delegation in Puerto Rico on 16th April.



The small border town of El Cayo, British Honduras.

THIS WIDE WORLD



500-TON EXHIBIT

As an example of bygone life in Northern Ireland, an old corn mill in County Fermanagh is to be taken down and re-built in the grounds of the new Ulster Folk Museum at Cultra Manor, County Down. Over 500 tons of masonry and equipment will have to be moved.

They seek sea shells on the sea shore

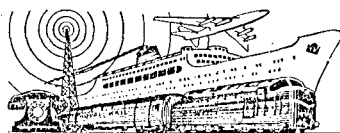
This picture was taken on the other side of the world—in New Zealand. The people on the beach, near Dargaville in the North Island, are digging out a shellfish delicacy known as toheroa.

Atomic energy in the frozen south

Tests began recently at the world's southernmost atomic energy station, McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. By generating electricity and providing steam for heating and for melting snow, it is expected to save the United States huge sums spent yearly on sending diesel oil to these latitudes.

The atomic reactor was built at Baltimore, US, taken to pieces, then shipped to McMurdo Sound and re-assembled there. It is the first of three which the Americans are to set up in the frozen south.

Briefly...



Seven Viking ships, about 1,000 years old, are to be raised this year from the bottom of Roskilde Fjord, 30 miles from Copenhagen. They were filled with stones and sunk to block the channel against raiders.

Food for reindeer

Helicopters have been used to drop food to starving reindeer in Norway's mountains. Layers of ice and snow, ten feet thick, prevented the animals reaching their natural food.

South African daily and Sunday newspapers are to be tape-recorded for the blind.

Australian explorers have mapped Oates Land, a previously unknown region of ice-covered mountains in Antarctica named after Captain Scott's gallant companion.

Down to the caves

Underwater swimmers are exploring submerged caves off the coast of Gibraltar for evidence of their occupation by Stone Age men.

Red Devil pony joins the RAF

A HANDSOME Shetland pony, Bruneval 1, late mascot of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, has joined a new unit. At a special ceremony in Cyprus, he was handed over to No. 70 Squadron of the RAF.

The Battalion, which had been working with No. 70 Squadron in the island, was returning to England. But the pony, which headed the parade on ceremonial occasions, could not go too because of the outbreak of African horse sickness in the Near East.

During the farewell ceremony Bruneval looked very smart in his special white harness and maroon saddle-cloth.

He stood quietly as the "Present Arms" was given. Then the maroon saddle-cloth was removed and his new one of RAF blue was put on. But this new saddle-cloth carries a maroon square with the Parachute Regiment's badge in silver as a memento of his old friends, the Red Devils.

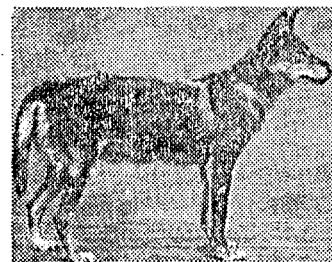
The pony is named after the village of Bruneval, on the Normandy coast, which was the scene of a brilliant exploit by the Red Devils during the Second World War.

Plastic tents for shepherds

On the steppe lands of Central Asia shepherds have always used a tent or "yurt" made of wool.

Now Soviet technicians have produced yurts from synthetic materials to give better protection. The sides are of foam plastic, coated outside with rot-proof and fireproof substance and supported on glass fibre poles. A large-sized yurt will be used as a school.

Fence 3,500 miles long

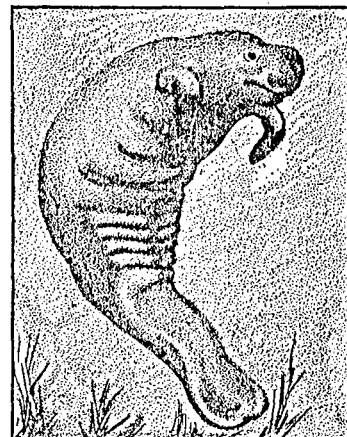


An Australian dingo

Built to keep wild dingo dogs out of Queensland's sheep lands, one of the world's longest fences—3,500 miles overall—is nearly complete after eight years' work. Enclosing nearly half Queensland, it will protect some 20 million sheep and 700,000 cattle from the marauding wild dogs which have been causing losses to farmers of about £3,000,000 a year.

SEA-COWS EAT A WAY THROUGH CHOKED CANALS

This strange creature, a manatee or sea-cow, has been doing good work in the canals of British Guiana which had become choked with weeds. About 70 sea-cows have been put into the weed-blocked canals to clear them, and having enormous appetites—100



pounds of food a day—the animals have been eating the water weeds as fast as the plants grow.

Harmless, slow-moving creatures, manatees may be as much as 15 feet long and weigh a ton. They live along the coasts of South and Central America, the West Indies, and Florida. A similar animal called a dugong inhabits the coasts of Africa and Australia.

PRESERVED DESERT

Now that so much barren land in America has been made fertile by irrigation comes news that the State of California is proposing to preserve a stretch of desert as something which is becoming rare.

The site is one of some 10,000 acres near Palm Springs.

"We went on different holidays together!"

Not quite so strange as it sounds when you know about youth hostelling. The Y.H.A. has many families who are all keen hostellers, and they sometimes tour as a family, staying at the same hostels on the same nights, but following their individual interests during the day. Parents and children often have different ideas of what is interesting, and one of the wonderful things about the Y.H.A. is how it enables you to follow any outdoor pursuit, knowing that at the end of the day the friendly hostel is waiting to welcome you. Not all hostellers tour with their families, of course—from 12 years upwards you can tour on your own if you like. But however you intend to travel, it's time you found out more about Y.H.A.

To Youth Hostels Association,
Trevelyan House, St. Albans, Herts.

Please send me free leaflet "Going Places?" and enrolment form.

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Patrick Moore explains the value of . . .

WORKING TOGETHER IN ASTRONOMY

FEW modern scientists work completely on their own. They have found that the best results are obtained by teams, not by isolated individuals; and this is as true in astronomy as in anything else.

There are plenty of astronomical societies in Britain. The most famous is the Royal Astronomical Society, founded 140 years ago. Later, in 1890, came the British Astronomical Association, which is mainly amateur and which has a magnificent record. In addition, many towns and cities have astronomical societies of their own.

Another national association, made up chiefly (though not entirely) of relatively young enthusiasts, is the Junior Astronomical Society, which was founded in 1952. The patron is Dr. J. G. Porter, formerly of the Royal Greenwich Observatory and known to millions of people through his broadcasts.

Learn and enjoy yourself

There are obvious advantages in joining a society. Not only will you make the best use of your observational results, but you will meet and correspond with people whose interests are the same as your own, so that you will learn as well as enjoy yourself. This is true even if you merely want to take a general interest in astronomy from the depths of an armchair, without carrying out any observations at the eye-end of a telescope.

I was a founder-member of the JAS, and acted as president between 1957 and 1959. Various difficulties faced us in the beginning. If we were to function properly, we had to have a journal; and journals cost money, which meant that we had to have a subscription. When we finally settled upon a journal to appear four times a year we fixed the subscription at 10s. for 12 months. We also had to allow for hiring a hall for our meetings. For years now the main meetings have been held at Caxton Hall, which is in the middle of London,

very close to St. James's Park underground station and five minutes' walk from Victoria.

We hoped that local groups would form—and they have. There are flourishing branches at Leeds, Golders Green, Croydon, Eastbourne and in South Wales, for instance, where regular meetings are held.

Expeditions have been organised. Two years ago, for example, it was decided to make observations of the August Perseid meteors, and a JAS party camped in Sussex, managing to secure observations which proved to be very useful indeed. In 1961 an effort was made to carry out a programme of photographing aurorae from the Island of Skye.

It is appropriate to write about the JAS at this moment, because the annual Open Meeting is to be held at Caxton Hall at 2 o'clock on Saturday, 14th April. All are welcome—there is no charge for admission—and those who go can be assured of an interesting time.

Fascinating hobby

There are relatively few people who want to make a career out of astronomy. It is, in fact, pointless to attempt anything of the sort unless you are exceptionally good at mathematics. But anyone can give himself—or herself—a fascinating hobby; and it is worth remembering that astronomy is one of the rare sciences in which the amateur can still be genuinely useful, even if he lacks elaborate equipment and has not too much time to spare.

The secretarial address of the JAS is: 9 Hill View Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire; and new members are always welcome. There are no age limits either way. The average age of members is about 17, but there are several enthusiasts of under 10.

Worthy Animal Defenders



Richard Riordan (11) and Tony Wilson (12) of Crawley, Sussex, are members of Animal Defenders, the junior branch of the RSPCA. They spend most of their spare time raising funds to help animals, like the dog in the picture, which has a leg in a plaster cast.

Mr. Therm's Saturday...



**Every day of the week
Mr. Therm's cheerful
help makes life better
for everyone.**

Saturday is Football Day . . .

and you come home all muddy and tired after a good game. What could be better than a nice hot bath! It's all ready to slip into in a very few minutes, no longer than it takes to turn on the tap and fill the bath. When Mr. Therm provides the hot water there are no boilers to light and no waiting for tanks to heat up. And you know that the bedroom will be warm and welcoming, too, because warm air flows into every room from the gas central heating system. So you can sing away in your bath without fearing the shivers when it's time to get out of it. Thank you, Mr. Therm!

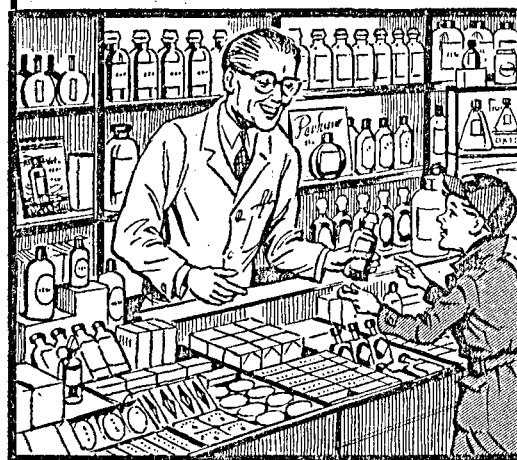
Ask Mr. Therm!

Have you ever wondered what soot is? Or why we get smoke from burning coal? Why not send your questions to Mr. Therm at the same address as you use for the competition: if yours is printed on this page you will win a £2s. Book Token. Hurry up and you may be one of the lucky ones!



Issued by the Gas Council.

Mr. Therm's Picture Puzzle



Many of the perfumes, drugs and medicines in the chemists' shops are made from substances produced when coal is made into gas. Can you tell exactly how many bottles there are here?

HOW TO ENTER: Count the number of bottles and write the answer neatly on a postcard. Add your full name, age and address, ask a parent or guardian to sign it as your own unaided work, then post it to:

Mr. Therm's Picture Puzzle No. 6, Children's Newspaper, 26-27 Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Mr. Therm will award £2 2s. Book Tokens for the three nearest correct entries (with writing according to age taken into consideration) received by Friday, 13th April. His decision is final!

MR. THERM'S PICTURE PUZZLE No. 1 winners are Derek Evans of Cheltenham, Graham Jenkins of Manchester, and Lynne Maddison of Chelmsford.

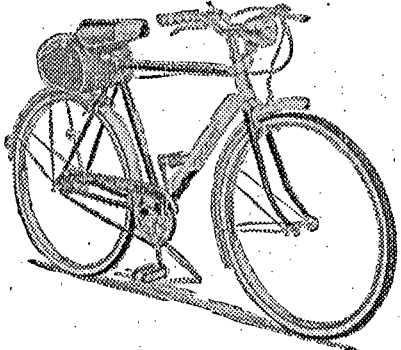
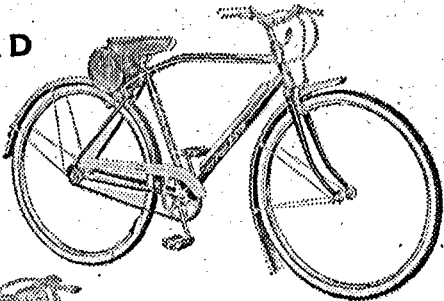
The answer was 26 mothballs.

GAS SAVES HARD WORK

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*wish I had a
Royal Enfield
bike*



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Address

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TOM DOOLEY LEAVES THE RAF TO JOIN THE ZOO

A handful of bushbaby

A VISITOR from Scotland walked into the zoo offices the other day and put a small box on the desk saying: "How would you like this?"

"This" turned out to be a pretty little galago, or bushbaby.

"It is indeed a welcome gift," said an official. "The animal is a Demidoff's bushbaby, a species we have not had in the collection

WHO'S WHO at the ZOO

since 1955. It is the smallest of all the bushbabies and is rarely seen in this country because it is more delicate than the other kinds, and is usually rather difficult to bring safely through our winter."

It curls up very confidently in one's hand, and thoroughly enjoys being fondled. "It is feeding well on milk, bananas and mealworms," the official added, "and we hope to have it on exhibition in our South Mammal House shortly."

Will Raven Annette nest again?

UNDAUNTED by their efforts, for the last three years, to persuade a pair of ravens known as Joe and Annette to nest, zoo officials are determined to try again this spring.

"This time we feel rather more hopeful," one official told me. "Joe died of old age during the winter, and his 'widow' will shortly be provided with a new partner, a very eligible young male at the Paignton Zoo. We are making arrangements to

acquire this bird by exchange.

"Admittedly, ravens are difficult birds to breed in a none-too-big aviary. But it can be done, given a suitable pair.

"The new male will be introduced into Annette's cage as soon as he arrives and, ravens being early nesters, the birds will be given the necessary sticks and twigs.

"Annette has more than once tried to build a nest on the six-foot-high ledge in her indoor shelter. But then she seemed to lose interest, probably because her former partner was too elderly to help her. With a more active husband, she may complete the nest and lay. At any rate, it seems worth a try, and we are much looking forward to making it."

Spotting the leopard?

Chiefly the leopard wasn't going to leave his favourite place in the Southport Zoo, even if it did mean an extra spot or two on his coat. The painter is the zoo manager.

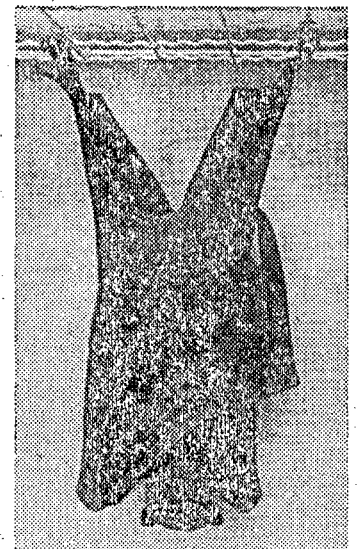


PETS of one kind or another are often supplied by the London Zoo to regimental or other units. Occasionally, the business goes in a reverse direction, and an ex-mascot comes to live at the zoo. This was the case when Tom Dooley arrived.

He is a large Indian fruit-bat which was for some time the mascot of No. 9 Squadron, RAF, stationed at Coningsby, Lincs. Tom Dooley has now "retired" and can be seen, along with others of his queer race, hanging upside-down from a branch in the South Mammal House. Presumably his name comes from the song *Hang Down Your Head, Tom Dooley*.

He was brought home from the East by a member of the squadron and went on many flights. In fact, he had his own special log-book in which were recorded all the details of his travels.

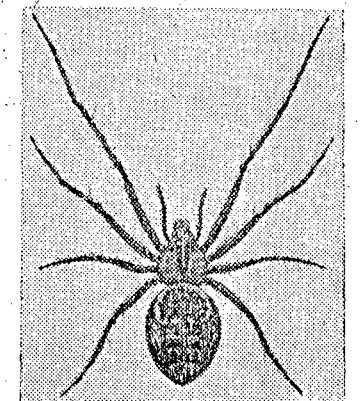
He does not bite but he has a slightly musky smell, due to the secretion of scent-glands on the shoulders, and it can only be supposed that the squadron eventually decided to supplant him with some more agreeable pet.



An Indian fruit-bat

EASTER IN THE SWAMPLANDS

THOSE snake-trappers, the twin brothers John and George Newman, who have collected so many specimens for the zoo, are planning yet another expedition. It will have to be in the Easter holidays because both are schoolmasters, and John has told me of their plans.



An Orb-Web spider

"This time," he said, "we are flying out to the Florida swamplands. We have written to local newspapers asking their readers to collect what they can and let us know the best localities to search.

"The zoo has given us a list of specially-wanted specimens, including an Orb-Web spider and a Black Widow spider, and a certain stick insect known, from its appearance when awaiting its prey, as the 'walking stick'.

"The reptile section wants some pygmy rattlesnakes—they're just as poisonous as the ordinary rattlers—some coral snakes and king snakes." CRAVEN HILL

SNAKE AND ONIONS

A live snake found among a box of onions by a Barnsley greengrocer was a "road guarder," a dangerous Central American reptile whose bite could have killed a child or badly wounded an adult.

LET'S GO...

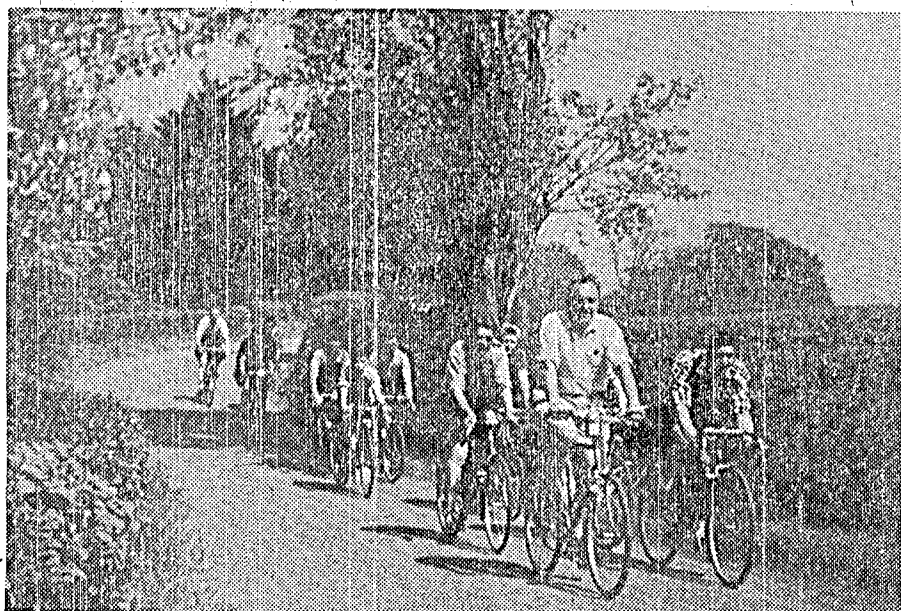
OUT WITH THE CTC

You've seen them, of course—groups of club cyclists wheeling merrily along the road or stacking their bicycles outside a village café. They seem to be having fun, and you may sometimes have wished you could join them.

But you don't like to just "turn up and tag on," and your parents may hesitate about letting you go. In any case, just what would it be like if you did?

Well, this month the Cyclists' Touring Club is giving you a chance to find out. This national organisation has hundreds of local "Sections" all over the country, and next Sunday they are all arranging special cycle rides for first-timers.

In other words, a "free sample" with no obligation—although naturally they hope you will enjoy it enough to want to go out with them again and eventually join up and take part in



"The leaders know all the secondary routes and byways."



Where there's a wheel—there's a cup of tea wanted.

their clubroom and social activities, weekend and holiday tours, and so on. They are calling it Invitation Sunday.

If you accept the invitation, you will have an experienced leader who will adjust the distance and pace of the ride according to the ages and cycling experience of those in his particular group. Girls, of course, are welcome as well as boys, and some of the groups will have women leaders.

The leaders know all the secondary routes and byways, and they will soon get you out of town and away from the streams of motor traffic, so that you can have a really good day in the country. You will learn some of the cyclists' direction signals and their own special "jargon," get used to riding in modern road conditions, and collect advice on the various kinds of bicycles, gears, and other accessories.

Out to all sorts of interesting places

Where will they take you? If you live in London or the suburbs you will visit some of the interesting places in the Chilterns, the Surrey Downs, the Kentish Weald, etc. Nottingham riders will be going to the romantic Sherwood Forest; Coventry groups will tour the Shakespeare country. The Yorkshire Dales National Park will receive many northern cyclists that day, and Edinburgh starters will see something of the progress on the new Forth road bridge. East Anglia, the South Coast, North Wales and the West Country—they are all covered by the programme of rides.

You can wear shorts or jeans, with a shirt or blouse and a wind-jammer—but carry a sweater, as it may strike chilly towards evening even if the day has been

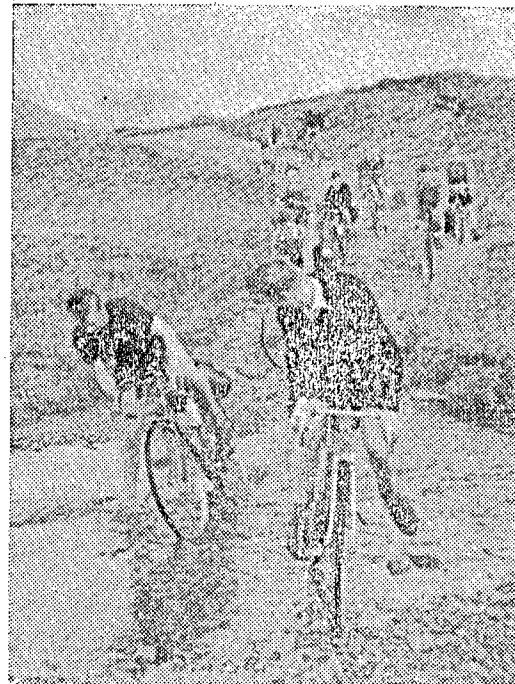
warm. Bring sandwiches for your lunch, and a little pocket money. There'll be drinks to buy, and in most cases a good tea at a real cyclists' café where it will have been arranged that several groups will join together.

How can you find out if there's an invitation ride in your area? Many local newspapers will publish the starting places or the address of the local organiser. Look out, too, for posters—at your public library or local cycle shop (the cycle dealer is almost certain to know the nearest CTC secretary).

If you are really stuck, write or phone the CTC headquarters, 3 Craven Hill, London, W.2. (PADdington 8271).

H. JOHN WAY

▲
April the 8th.
is Invitation
Sunday, so get
out your
bikes and be
ready to put
your best foot
forward with
the Cyclists'
Touring Club
—but not like
the rider
below.
▼



THAT STRANGER ON THE SHORE MOVES TO THE CITY

Two against Napoleon



Francis Matthews and William Russell in a scene from *Triton*

SECRET weapons are not a modern notion. The British Admiralty were much worried about one which Napoleon was believed to have up his sleeve in the year 1800—a device invented by an American, Robert Fulton, which could blow up ships at a distance without the use of gunfire.

Round this idea BBC producer

Rex Tucker wrote his exciting serial *Triton*, televised last year, and now to be repeated, with the first instalment on Friday.

It tells how Nelson sends two young English officers, Capt. Belwether (William Russell) and Lieut. Lamb (Francis Matthews) on a dangerous cross-Channel mission to find out about the weapon.

ONLY nine days after the repeat showing of *Stranger On The Shore* was due to finish, BBC junior TV brings us next Sunday a sequel called *Stranger In The City*.

We follow the adventures of the same *au pair* girl, Marie-Helene (Jeanne le Bars), but this time author Sheila Hodgson takes her from Brighton to London, where the young visitor from



By Ernest Thomson

Normandy has to try to make out what the Cockneys are saying! The cast in Kevin Sheldon's production are the same as before, except for "Penny" Gough, now played by April Wilding.

You may remember that the theme music for *Stranger On The Shore* was specially written and played by Acker Bilk, the famous jazz clarinettist. Within a few weeks it had soared to the top of the Hit Parade. The same tune is used for this second programme but it has now been speeded up—to match the faster tempo of life in London.



TAKE A LOOK AT NATURE

WITH MAXWELL KNIGHT

LEARN TO USE YOUR REFERENCE BOOKS

I had to cross swords with my young friend Paddy the other day. He came to me with a query and seemed rather put out when I told him to look up the answer in one of his natural history books.

"Can't you just tell me now?" he said.

I told him that if he was not prepared to use his reference books first, he would never become anything like a real naturalist. I went on to say that asking questions merely to save oneself trouble was just laziness, and no serious student of wild life would indulge in it.

I get far too many letters with questions that can be answered just by looking intelligently in easily available books. These can be books which you have saved up to buy, or which you have had given you as presents. And don't forget, above all, that your public library has lots of nature-books, and the librarians are always on hand to give advice.

"But suppose I can't find the answer," persisted Paddy.

"Ah!" I replied, "in that case by all means ask."

The question Paddy had wanted to put to me was about the identification of a bird he had seen. He had made some notes of its size and plumage, and in what sort of place he had found it, but he had not looked through his bird-book.

Then Jane said: "But suppose Paddy had looked in his book and yet couldn't find his bird?"

I then explained that this would probably mean that Paddy's notes were at fault.

You see, when you come across a bird that you don't recognise you must be careful to be as exact as possible in writing down its features. Don't just put "a small brown bird." You must add "as small as a blue-tit or a sparrow or a starling," or whatever it is. Size is important and so are points like shape of beak, type of tail, colour of legs and so on.

There are plenty of good bird books about, and many give you hints on identification.

Television and radio are fine for stimulating interest, but they do not take the place of books to which we can refer again and again.

ON RECORD

Brenda wants castles in Britain

Her many admirers in Britain have been looking forward to the visit of that happy American girl singer, Brenda Lee. And Brenda wants to see Britain.

This dynamic young lady, 17 years old and only 4 ft. 11 in. tall, has a new recording *Speak To Me Pretty* (Brunswick 05867. Single 6s. 9d.) which is on the way to becoming a big hit.



Brenda Lee

But Brenda wants to do something more than sing in Britain. "I want to see as many of your ancient buildings—old castles, abbeys, churches—as I possibly can," she says. "In my country a house with some bullet holes

from the Civil War is regarded almost as a national monument!"

Brenda lives in the music "capital" of America, Nashville, Tennessee. During her tours one of her parents and her tutor go with her. And every day she has school lessons.

Brenda's tour here occupies most of April. Afterwards she sings in Paris and in United States service camps in Germany.

OTHER NEW DISCS

Cyril Stapleton is planning a trip to Africa to record native rhythms. As a fore-runner to the safari his band plays a fascinating theme called *Afrikaans Beat* on Decca F11443. (Single 6s. 9d.)

Another African sound comes from The Tokens. They sing *B'wa Mina* (it means Pretty Girl) on RCA 1279 (Single 6s. 9d.).

Irish girl Moya Moray makes her disc debut with *My Heart Will Make A Fool Of Me* (Piccadilly. 7N35023. Single 6s. 9d.) A pleasant beginning, too.

The distinctive voice of Sam Cooke—one of America's foremost negro singers—is at its best on his new album *My Kind Of Blues* (RCA. RD2745. LP 36s. 8d.).

While *Flower Drum Song* was not one of the most successful of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals, it contained some attractive songs. The music from the film version is on Brunswick LAT8392. (LP 36s. 8d.).

CHOOSE THE JUDY GRINHAM SWIMSUIT



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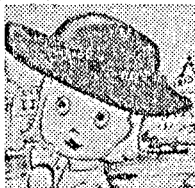
LITTLE LAURA IS SO OLD-FASHIONED

LITTLE LAURA may be a rather old-fashioned girl, but viewers of BBC junior TV at once took to her when she first appeared two years ago in a series of cartoon films written and drawn by V. H. Drummond. A year later the same films were repeated.

Next Wednesday (11th April)

Laura returns in a completely new set of adventures. Once again her best friends are a small boy, Billie Gustie, and a policeman called Grebo who is always having to rescue her.

This time a villain turns up with the unpromising name of Vilwort.



Little Laura



Grebo

OUT WITH THE SALMON FISHERS

FOUL play among the salmon fishers? Niall, a young Highlander, suspects it when his elder brother is brought home unconscious.

This is the start of *Master Of Morgana*, a new serial in BBC junior radio beginning this Wednesday with the Isle of Skye

as its romantic setting. John Keir Cross has adapted it from the book by Allan Campbell McLean, who lives in Skye, and vividly recreates its wild beauty and wilder weather. Taking his brother's place in the fishing crew, Niall sets about unravelling the mystery.

Now Yogi the Raccoon

NEXT week a new chapter opens in Granada's *Zoo Time* with the arrival of Yogi the Raccoon. From 11th April, Yogi will be seen capering about weekly with his owner, 22-year-old Malcolm Lyall-Watson, who is studying animal behaviour at the London Zoo for his Doctor of Philosophy degree.

"I have owned and trained nine raccoons, but never one as mischievous as Yogi," Mr. Lyall-Watson told me. "Most of the time, I expect, viewers will see him butting me and getting altogether too big for his boots! In fact, Yogi is becoming too much of a handful. After the TV series I shall have to hand him over to the Zoo as a permanent resident."

Yogi was reared in Canada after his parents had been killed by a dog. While being flown over to Britain last August he escaped from his cage and caused not a little consternation in the BOAC airliner. He has lived up to his lively reputation ever since.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER BOOK CHOICE

THE HARTWARP LIGHT RAILWAY

by
**JOHN
PUDNEY**

*It had run once—and it was going to run again, if Charley
and George could possibly manage it!*

The Hartwarp Light Railway was disused. But there was still some rolling stock there—and two quaint old stationmasters, Olly Took and The Gaffer.

Olly was stationmaster at Hartwarp Junction. Charley and George, who had got to know him, were keen on getting the railway working again. So was someone called Jo, up at Grunty Quarry, where The Gaffer was stationmaster.

There was an engine at Hartwarp, and carriages up at Grunty Quarry. And then they found a guard's van . . .

4. A word with Jo

It was a proper guard's van with open platforms like verandas fore and aft, and a cosy little house with a tiny stove on one side with its chimney poking up through the roof. There was also a lantern light at the top from which the guard, by standing on a stool, could see where the train was going.

Charley and George found the van on a rusty little siding behind a pile of beehives at the back of the shed. With the aid of Uncle Olly, they managed to shove it along into the engine shed and into a position where it could be coupled to *The Duchess*.

For two days they worked in it, sweeping it out, cleaning the paintwork, polishing the stove and the brass handles and lamps. Then Uncle Olly was satisfied and said that it was fit to be coupled to *The Duchess*.

"I tell you what we done, Gaffer, we've found that little old guard's van, the one called *Doris*," he bellowed proudly into the trumpet telephone.

He came back from that talk looking slightly downcast.

All the classes

"They've gone one better," he said. "The Gaffer and Jo have painted one of the passenger coaches. First class one end, that's red. Second class, yellow, in the middle. Third class, blue, at t'other end. I remember that coach, a handsome piece of coachwork we called *Percy*, after some member of the royal family."

"But there isn't any third class nowadays," George said. "Not on ordinary railways anyway."

"Who's talking about ordinary railways?" Uncle Olly said. "There's always been a third class on the Hartwarp Light Railway, and as long as I have anything to do with it there always will be."

"And surely there isn't anyone called *Percy* in the royal family either?" said Charley, just for the sake of conversation.

"Then there ought to have been a royal family, with somebody called *Percy*. A proper good name it is." Uncle Olly yawned as he said this. "I dunno how this is all going to end, this light railway lark, with The Gaffer too stout and me too tired and so busy."

"What does Jo think?" said Charley.

"You can find out if you like," said Uncle Olly, pointing to the telephone. "I dare say The Gaffer would let you talk to Jo."

So Charley picked up the trumpet telephone, wound the handle vigorously and waited.

After a few moments a fearful roaring sound came out of the trumpet.

"Tush you, Olly! Why aren't you asleep? At this time of day you ought to be. What's woke you up, eh?"

"I wondered if I could speak to Jo," said Charley.

"Humph, humph, humph," boomed back the reply. Then, in a more distant voice came the words: "It's a call for you, Jo."

A very clear, precise voice followed: "This is Jo speaking. Who is it and what do you want?"

"It's about *The Duke*," Charley said, "and that engine, and the rolling stock. I mean, the first, second and third class carriages . . ."

"We have all that in hand," Jo's voice was really a bit smooth. "What about it?"

Anxious to start

"It's like this," said Charley. "We've done up *The Duchess* and we're just finishing the guard's van called *Doris*. Then we shall try to do something about clearing the track up to the tunnel."

"About time too," said Jo. "The Gaffer is feeling very impatient. I have quite a job with him. He thinks that Mr. Took sleeps too much: and we're so anxious to start operating."

"Mr. Took has so much on his hands . . ." Charley began.

"We all have," Jo sighed. "Up here we've silky-haired goats, fluffy rabbits, rather angry geese, Muscovy ducks, tomatoes growing everywhere, roses that need attending to, gooseberry bushes overgrowing the track, and bees."

"Your Gaffer must have the same tastes as our Uncle Olly—and he says 'tush' too," Charley said with a laugh.

This seemed to break the ice. Jo laughed back and then said, "We'll have to work together . . ."

So there and then they made a few plans. They would each check their own sections of the track and make sure that it was quite clear both sides of the tunnel by the following afternoon. Then they would telephone again, make an appointment, find some of the old railway lanterns and walk towards each other through the tunnel. By the time they met halfway, they would have checked the whole of the track.

"You'll recognise me. I'll be wearing blue jeans," said Jo.

"We're not likely to miss you," laughed Charley. "There won't be any crowd in a tunnel that's been forgotten for years and has had its ends hidden with brambles."

Altering the goose run

Uncle Olly grumbled and tushed as he altered the goose run, so that the wire on the far side would be clear of the track. And in the orchard there was much more to be done than they had supposed—dead wood and stones to be shifted, nettles to be cut—and brambles!

"We shall never even reach the mouth of the tunnel by tomorrow," said George, "and then it will take

a couple of days to deal with those brambles, unless Uncle Olly works with us."

But his goat was just having her kid and Uncle Olly could not put his mind to anything else.

"The trouble is that that Jo will think we're like a couple of feeble girls," Charley said, "saying we'd clear the mouth of the tunnel by tomorrow afternoon, and then finding it's too much for us."

Luckily Mrs. Jully heard them discussing this. She had been becoming more and more interested in their work on the Hartwarp Light Railway and often said how she used to be so fond of it and would love to see it running again.

"I tell you what!" she exclaimed. "Mr. Jully will be taking the tractor with a load up the hill past the old station later this evening or first thing tomorrow morning. I'm sure he'd clear those brambles for you in a jiffy." She paused. "We'll have to let him into the secret, of course. But, as he's a very old friend of both The

phone Jo and say we'll be ready to start in an hour."

Charley telephoned, and Jo, when told the news, sounded surprised.

"You must have worked hard at your end!" Jo exclaimed. "I'll be ready to start in exactly one hour. Remember, you'll need a few tools and something to carry them in."

Charley said: "Of course. We know all about that."

In fact, they had not thought of it and, by the time they had loaded themselves with the tools which Uncle Olly suggested, and with two heavy railway lanterns, they began to wonder if they would ever get halfway through the tunnel.

The tools were slung across their backs in railwaymen's slings which Uncle Olly produced. This left them free to wield a long-handled tapping-hammer in one hand and a lantern in the other.

Uncle Olly told them what to look out for, then went off for

After a lot more plodding, tapping, spade-work, levering and lifting, they heard the welcome sound of Jo's voice hallooing. They shouted back and worked even harder.

Uncle Olly had told them that there was a smoke-vent which let in a patch of green daylight from a wood above. That was the exact halfway mark.

"We simply must be there before Jo. We shall look like a soppy pair of girls if we don't," groaned George.

No sooner had he said this than Jo's squeaky voice echoed distantly. "I'm there! I've reached the halfway vent-shaft."

"Tush it!" muttered Charley (who had taken a fancy to *Tush*.)

"But Jo's not carrying tools, Charley. Everything's on some sort of trolley."

Arrival by bogey

They could hear it clattering slowly along the line while Jo hammered away, and they knew now that it was one of those bogeys which railwaymen use, a flat truck on four wheels. You pulled a handle to and fro which worked a sort of piston, and you went along as fast or as slow as you liked.

"I've been using it for weeks now," Jo explained when they met. "I found it in a little old rusty siding behind one of The Gaffer's sheds."

But Charley and George were not only astonished by this wonderful little runabout. When Jo reached them and stood up on the front of the bogey, the squeaky voice said: "I'm glad to meet you chaps at last, even if you didn't reach the middle of the tunnel. I was a bit better equipped, as you see. Now help me down, one of you . . ." It was then that they saw the pigtailed girl in the light of the lanterns. Jo was a girl!

"You can't be a girl," said Charley.

"Why not?" said Jo. "This is a man's job," said George gruffly.

"I don't think you're being very polite," Charley said to George.

"I don't care what any of you say," Jo said. "I've cleared the line up to the tunnel and three parts of the way through the tunnel. I want to see the Hartwarp Light Railway working," she added proudly. "The Gaffer calls me his right-hand man."

Back through the tunnel

Very soon after that she was explaining how the bogey truck worked.

"Let's work it back to your end of the line," Charley suggested. "I'd like to meet The Gaffer."

"But I promised him that I'd check the track right down to Uncle Olly's locomotive shed," Jo said. "The Gaffer says he won't let a single train run until that's been done."

So they all climbed on to the bogey truck and went back along through the tunnel. Jo explained

Continued on page 10



Gaffer and Olly Took, they won't mind . . ."

When they arrived at the station the next morning, the brambles were gone—or, to be exact, they had been piled up on one side ready for bonfiring. The mouth of the tunnel was clear! You could stand there and see right through to the little blob of daylight at the far end.

Uncle Olly appeared to be flabbergasted. "I reckon the fairies done that," he kept saying, and it was not until some time later the boys learnt that Mr. Jully and Mr. Took had had a good laugh over the job the evening before and had shared a nice little drop of rhubarb wine which Uncle Olly made and kept for old friends who "lent a helping hand."

"Now for the lanterns!" cried George, making for the signal-box. "Charley, you go and tele-

his afternoon nap. Dead on time, they were at the tunnel entrance and were excited to see a flash of light no bigger than a pinhead at the other end. They knew it must be Jo's lamp.

They began plodding through the tunnel, clearing stones, moss and bits of rubbish and tapping the rails. There was very little trouble, but it was hard work and they were soon puffing. To make matters worse, it seemed that Jo, though single-handed, was making much faster progress than they were. The light of Jo's lantern was growing bigger every minute, yet the tunnel mouth behind them never looked much smaller.

From time to time they could see the outline of Jo's figure bobbing about. Strangely enough there also seemed to be some kind of truck.

"Probably a wheelbarrow," Charley suggested.

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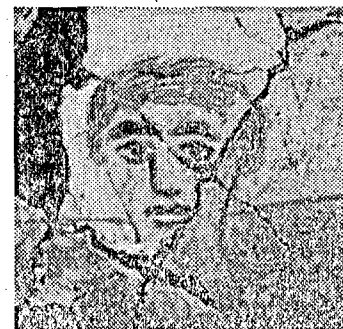
DOLLS AND MOSQUITOES

Face on the Wall

The face in this picture used to gaze at the congregation of a small chapel, once part of a big country house or villa of Roman Britain.

Whose face it was is a mystery. Perhaps it was that of a saint or of an angel. But it is part of an impressive wall-painting which also shows a design of pillars and kneeling figures and an early Christian monogram, surrounded by a garland of flowers in which a bird is pecking at some berries.

The face has been rescued, along with some 7,000 other fragments of painted plaster, from



the site of the Roman villa at Lullingstone, Kent, which is visited by thousands every year.

The job of piecing this jig-saw puzzle together has already taken eleven years and, when complete, the whole will be exhibited in the timber building which the Ministry of Works is putting up to protect the foundations of the villa and a fine mosaic floor.

THE HARTWARP LIGHT RAILWAY

Continued from page 9

that if the bogey was all right on the line, it would be safe for the locomotives and rolling stock to travel.

By the time they had worked their way out of the tunnel, through the orchard, across the rustic bridge and along the vegetable garden to the locomotive shed, the sun was already beginning to go down and Uncle Oly was fussing about them.

He glared at Jo, and Charley, noticing his surprised look, said: "She does a man's work, Uncol, even if she's only a girl."

"But she's not only a girl," said Uncle Oly. "She's me niece. Josephine, she's supposed to be called." He grinned at Jo. "How's The Duke doing, Josephine?"

"The Gaffer said he's never looked better, Uncle Oly. He's really a match for The Duchess."

They all went over The Duchess and the guard's van called Doris bit by bit, so that Jo could go back and tell The Gaffer that they were in good shape. Then they parted, full of plots and plans and ideas for the next day!

To be continued

FOUR festivals enjoyed each year by Japanese children are to have special stamps issued in their honour by the Japanese Post Office.

The first is Hinamatsuri, or the Festival of the Dolls, which is celebrated by little Japanese girls at the beginning of March. Every



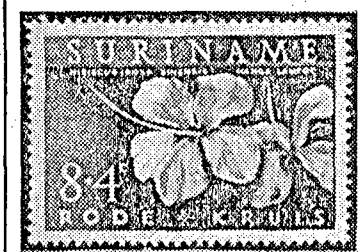
girl hopes to have a party to which her friends come to eat rice cakes and to admire the new dolls which her parents have given her.

The 10-yen stamp pictured here shows a Japanese girl with her dolls and a spray of peach blossom, which is always used to decorate the house during Hinamatsuri.

Another new Japanese stamp, a 6-yen value, has been added to the ordinary series. It shows a spray of nanten, an evergreen plant which bears bright red berries.

Flowers of Surinam

THE Red Cross will benefit from sales of a new series of flower



stamps issued in Surinam (Dutch Guiana), in South America.

There are five stamps in the series and each shows a different tropical flower found in the forests of Surinam. Each stamp

also carries a small extra premium above its face value for postage, and the money raised by this premium will be given to Red Cross funds.

The value pictured here shows the hibiscus-flower.

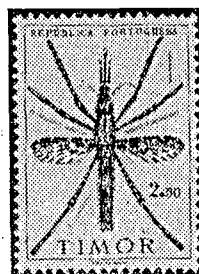
Health Stamps

APRIL 7TH is World Health Day and this year it is also the day when countries all over the world are issuing special stamps. The stamps are to help in the World Health Organisation's campaign against malaria.

Portugal is preparing eight stamps, one for each of the Portuguese Overseas Provinces, or colonies. Strange to say, there is a stamp for Portuguese India, usually known as Goa. This small Portuguese colony on the west coast of India was recently occupied by Indian troops. It is most unlikely that this stamp will ever be on sale at the post offices in Goa, which now uses Indian stamps.

Like the Timor design pictured here, all the Portuguese stamps feature the malaria mosquito.

Altogether, about 90 countries are taking part in the campaign.



Overprinting in Israel

CHANGES in the rates of postage for letters going abroad have caused the Israeli Post Office to overprint three stamps with new values. The stamps belong to the series which features the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

Pictured here is the new 3-pruta value showing the Ram, which is the sign for Aries.

C. W. HILL



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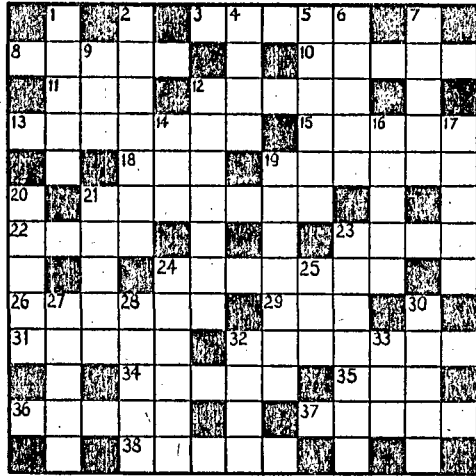
PUZZLE PARADE

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 3, 18, and 24 Date of the Boat Race (three words, 5, 3, 7). 8 Heavenly body, or famous aircraft. 10 You can get milk and butter at this. 11 Royal Automobile Club. 12 Guide. 13 Deeds. 15 Assent. 18 See 3 across. 19 Begg. 21 Used for taking photos. 22 True. 23 Land measure. 24 See 3 across. 26 Delighted. 29 Toward the stern of a ship. 31 Colour for a fragrant shrub. 32 Making accustomed to something. 34 Outer shell. 35 Beverage. 36 Tremble. 37 Fruit of the oak. 38 Having a sharp slope.

READING DOWN: 1 Lamp. 2 Musical performance. 4 Favourites you might have. 5 Perfections. 6 Big. 7 Race, or strain. 9 Rug. 12 If you've just done this, you may have a cold. 14 Measure of electricity. 16 Cattle-breeding farm. 17 Coastal county of England. 19 A display, usually with historical scenes. 20 Vicious. 21 Man-made waterway. 23 To entice. 24 Made to be kept. 25 National Farmers' Union. 27 Supple. 28 Small nails. 30 Lifeless. 32 . . . of Wight. 33 International Labour Office.

Answer below

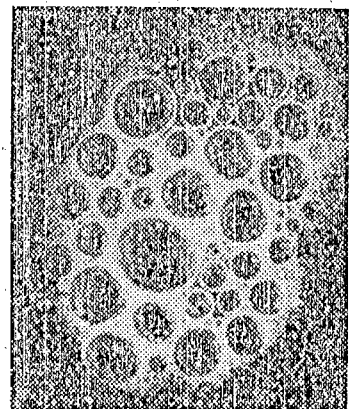


FIND THE FLOWER

If you answer each clue correctly, you will find that the letters reading diagonally from left to right will form the name of a spring flower.

He played bowls on Plymouth Hoe
Auctioneer's mallet
Far Eastern country
Swamp or bog
Slow

Have a guess!



Now, what's this? Gems in cotton wool; soap bubbles; sago pudding; frog spawn.

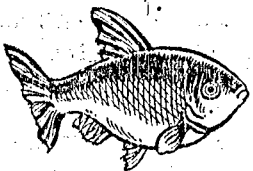
In the holiday

First, find the name given to a spring holiday (two words). Then insert the letters below between the two words to form, when read downwards, six four-letter words.

XLHITO
ASUENS

Oat Krunchies

Cut out this fish and stick it in the space provided on the side of the Quaker Oat Krunchies packet so that you can enter the Children's Newspaper and Oat Krunchies "Fishing Facts" competition.



Musical identities

The answer to each clue is already given, but the letters have been jumbled up. Can you sort them out?

I'm the name of a group of notes you know well. LEACS
I'm a word that you hear when the music must swell. SCREENCOD
I'm a regular beat —I'm so awkward to spell. TRYHMH
I'm used to make sounds on a violin's strings. WBO
I'm the name of a voice that's high-pitched when it sings. PRASOON
I'm a beautiful tune that sweet harmony brings. DYMOLE

WATER COURSES

Can you insert vowels among the capital letters below to form the names of three things which have connection with water? First is an eight-letter word meaning an artificial channel; the next, of nine letters, is something in which water is stored; the final name, consisting of only four letters, is that given to a kind of ditch once used as a form of defence.

QDCTRSVRMT

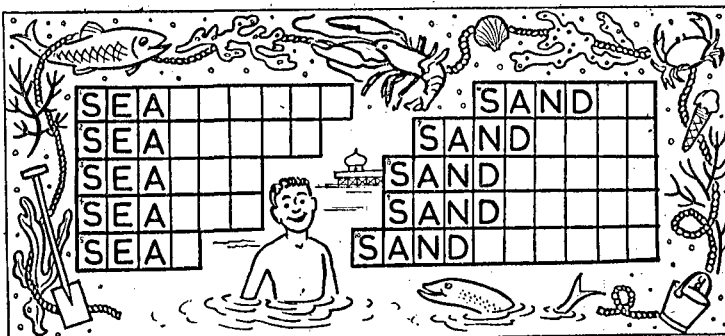
Boat-building

Can you add two more letters to each of the words below and rearrange them in such a way that the names of three types of boat are formed?

RENT; GLEAN; TRIED

ADDING TO SEA AND SAND

Can you complete these words from the clues below?



1. Gives a particular flavour to food
2. Popular breed of dog
3. To look for something
4. A division of the year
5. Sea mammal
6. Type of shoe
7. Kentish town to be eaten
8. Wading bird
9. For smoothing wood
10. Member of the swallow family.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Crossword Puzzle. Across: 3, 18, and 24 April the Seventh. 8 Comet. 10 Dairy. 11 RAC. 12 Steer. 13 Actions. 15 Agree. 18 See 3. 19 Plead. 21 Cameras. 22 Real. 23 Acre. 24 See 3. 26 Elated. 29 Aft. 31 Lilac. 32 Inuring. 34 Crust. 35 Ale. 36 Shake. 37 Acorn. 38 Steep. Down: 1 Torch. 2 Recital. 4 Pets. 5 Ideals. 6 Large. 7 Breed. 9 Mat. 12 Sneezed. 14 Ohm. 16 Ranch. 17 Essex. 19 Pageant. 20 Cruel. 21 Canul. 23 Attract. 24 Secret. 25 NFU. 27 Lithe. 28 Tacks. 30 Inert. 32 Isle. 33 ILO.

Find the flower. Musical identities. Scale; crescendo; rhythm; bow; soprano; melody. Water courses. Aqueduct; reservoir; moat. Boat-building. A and K making Tanker. L and O making galleon; 8 sand-piper; 9 sand-paper. In the holiday. EASTER XLHITO ASUENS MONDAY

Daily visitor. MILKMAN.

Hare learns a lesson

HARE was still young when he learned that, at night, monsters with blazing eyes ran along the winding road which he must cross to reach the turnip fields.

But soon he also learned he need not fear them, for they stayed on the road. "Right!" he said. "Now I know all about roads and monsters. I will have some fun with them."

So he raced with the cars, along the grass verge, till he outdistanced them. Then he crossed over.

Presently the monsters came no more. The road was closed so that other monsters, digging and delving and moving by day, could make the new motorway there. And Hare missed his nightly races.

Many moons passed, till at last the new motorway was opened. Its two carriageways, each with three-line traffic, were separated by a wide grass strip.

The first night Hare heard the traffic he cried: "Good! Races again!" And hurried through the hedge bordering the nearer track-way.

Last night this straight roadway had been so silent and deserted as he crossed to the turnip fields. Now, in one of those lulls which occur in traffic, it was deserted again. Immediately he crossed over to the dividing strip to wait there for a monster to race.

Then everything happened at once.

Not one monster, but two flashing lines of them began whizzing past, behind, and before him. And, with some overtaking, often three lines of monsters were passing up and down at the same time.

Caught thus between two streams of traffic, Hare raced up and down the grass strip seeking to out-distance first one stream, then another, to cross over. But it was hopeless.

Not until a lull near dawn did he manage it.

"Never again!" he said wearily. "I surely don't know everything about roads and monsters. That's a new lesson for me!"

JANE THORNICROFT

PUZZLED PET!



My boxer dog is full of fun.. He likes to chase a ball and

run, And he's a splendid swimmer too— There's very little he can't do! Yet though in all my games he'll share,

My boxer has a worried air— No other dog can boast, I vow, So many wrinkles on his brow!

DO IT YOURSELF

How to make flower-pots from egg-shells

EGG-SHELLS make excellent flower-pots for seedlings because the "pots" can be put in the flower-bed without injury to the delicate roots.

You need a seedbox with a layer of coarse sand, and a number of well-washed egg-shells half filled with compost. Crack the base of the shells for drainage,

place two seeds in each, fill up with earth, and stand each shell upright in the box. Water sparingly.

When ready for planting out, remove the weaker of each pair of seedlings, scoop small holes in the soil, and cover the shells, leaving only the seedlings' heads above ground.

Daily visitor

My first is in elm but not in oak, My second is in fire but not in smoke;

My third is in small and also in large,

My fourth is in ketch but not in barge; [week,

My fifth is in month but not in My sixth is in Dane but not in Greek;

My seventh is in ocean but not in bay,

And I'm someone who calls at your house every day.

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Skating to stardom



MARGARET HANKINSON took her first steps on ice at the age of two! Now, 13 years later, she is quite an "old stager" and being spoken of as a possible champion of the future.

Margaret, who lives at Hayes, Middlesex, does her training at the Richmond rink, and recently she has been working specially hard. A few days ago she took part in the Southern Counties Championships at Birmingham, and next Wednesday (11th April) she will be competing in the British junior championships at Richmond.

OXFORD DISCARD THE TORPEDO BOAT

But Cambridge must still be slight favourites

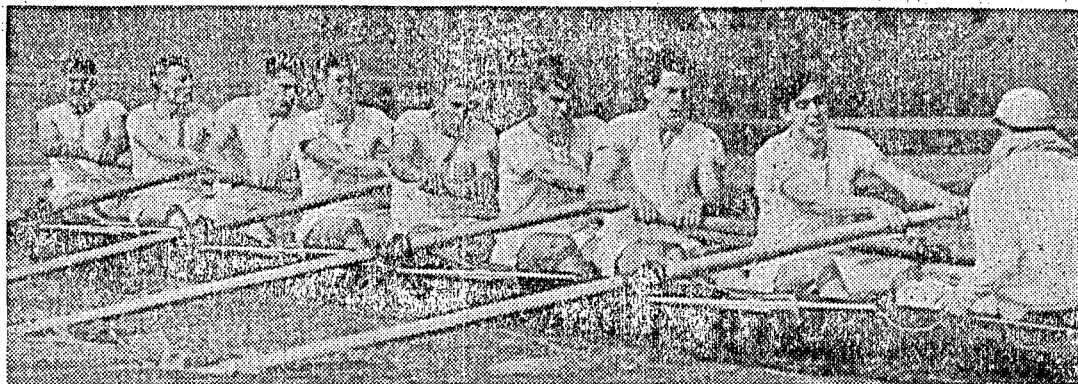
JOVIAL Cambridge boatman, Alf Twinn, has been in charge of 19 winning Cambridge crews—but he has never seen an actual race!

Saturday's Boat Race—the 108th—marks his jubilee year as boatman and, as usual, he will miss the race. "You see, my job is to collect my crew's clothing at the start and then motor down the 4½-mile course with them to the finishing point."

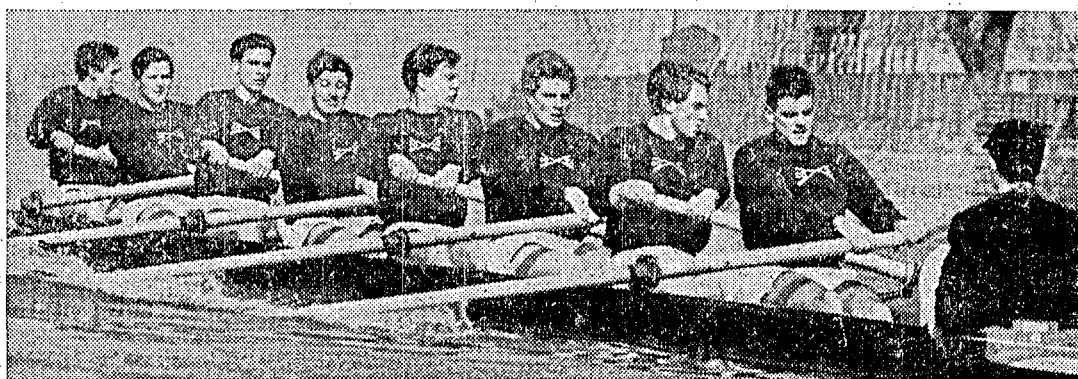
But one thing Alf Twinn has seen in his years as boatman is the amazing number of revolutionary experiments made by opponents Oxford.

"But we don't worry," he grinned. "Facts speak for themselves. As usual, we'll let Oxford get on with the fancy stuff. All we have to do is to take off our jackets and beat 'em."

Six years ago, Oxford used "The Method," a much publicised American style of rowing. Later they tried a "Banana Boat" so called because the bow and stern



With four of last year's crew, Cambridge (above) must be favourites again. Below we see Oxford during practice.



rose high out of the water. Last year they used spade-shaped oars which were 11 inches longer than normal.

But Oxford lost all these races. Only in 1959 and 1960 when they used orthodox British style and shell did they break the Cambridge monopoly.

And they almost decided on another revolutionary plan to beat Cambridge this Saturday—a torpedo-shaped Italian craft, similar to that used by the Italians in the Rome Olympics.

But after only one day with it at Putney, they found it unsuitable for the unpredictable waters of the tideway and promptly reverted to the 1960 boat.

Roger Nicholson, Cambridge President, was not surprised to learn that Oxford had changed their minds at the last moment. "If they had used their Italian boat, I would have wagered that it would have sunk long before Mortlake!"

Oxford President is Mike Davis, who is the only member of last year's beaten crew. He does not regret trying out the Italian boat, and considers that his crew gained some valuable experience pulling a much shorter and lighter craft during practice.

But both he and his coach, Group Captain "Jumbo" Edwards, agree that they would

feel a lot happier if Cambridge did not have such a powerful "engine-room" in 14 stone John Lecky, a Canadian Olympic silver medallist, and Boyce Budd, a 15 stone American who is a political science student from Convent, New Jersey. Budd, incidentally, is an expert weight-lifter.

When Oxford were training in their Italian boat, Cambridge were clear favourites to win. Now the chances have been evened out.

Cambridge broke with tradition during their training sessions this time. The whole crew took dancing lessons for the "Twist." Not even progressive Oxford thought of that one!

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ALL-ROUND ALFIE



WEST GERMANY, 1954
winners of the World Cup, have just announced the names of 40 players from whom their 22 for Chile will be selected.

Among them is their brilliant 26-year-old centre-forward Uwe Seeler who, since 1960 has been Germany's "Player of the Year."

Seeler was first capped a few weeks after his 18th birthday against England at Wembley.

Italy, too, have named 40 players. Milan, Juventus, and



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Fiorentina claim seven apiece, and Inter and Roma have five each. Incidentally, there are no

fewer than six Argentine-born players in the Italian selection!

ON his recent trip to Chile, England team manager Mr. Walter Winterbottom discovered that Rancagua, where England play all her opening matches, has a climate not unlike our own in spring.

The average temperature during May is between 46 and 50 degrees; there is unlikely to be a great deal of rain; and the humidity average is 82. All of which is good news for the England players.